Improvement in quality of drinking water

1727. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that inspite of sincere efforts by the Central Government, the States have not improved the quality of drinking water;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether guideline issued by Government to the States in regard to routine analysis of samples for physico-chemicals and microbial quality are not being followed by States; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Rural drinking water supply is a State subject. Central Government assists the State Governments in implementation of rural drinking water supply schemes by providing technical and financial assistance through the Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) of Ministry of Rural Development, Department of Drinking Water Supply. 85% of the rural drinking water supply schemes are based on ground-water sources. Problems due to chemical contamination of ground water namely arsenic, fluoride, salinity and nitrate get aggravated due to various reasons like over-extraction of ground water for irrigation purposes, lack of recharge of aquifers due to recurrent droughts and anthropogenic pollution due to industrial waste etc. All the above reasons contribute to the deterioration of drinking water quality from ground water sources.

(c) and (d) As reported by the Ministry of Rural Development, Department of Drinking Water Supply the guidelines issued by Government of India to States for routine analysis of samples for physico-chemical and microbial quality are being followed by the States by and large.

Fluoride and Nitrate in the Ground Water

1728. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has conducted any survey in the country so far to find out the quantity of fluoride and nitrate present in the ground water, State-wise;